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Convoy Airmen return from six-month deployment

Fellow LRS vehicle operators prepare to depart for additional tours to Southwest Asia to support Soldiers

By Senior Airman Katie Thomas
Editor

The 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron celebrated the return of eight of its own Airmen Feb. 3 after a six-month deployment.

The Airmen deployed to an Army base in Iraq to support convoy operations that included moving equipment, fuel and other supplies by ground.

The Airmen agreed that they are happy to be home again.

"It was the best sight in the world as our bus rolled up to the Fussa Gate," said Airman 1st Class Jay Borowiec, who was a shuttle driver and gunner while deployed.

While they did feel a little fear as an initial reaction to being tasked, Airman 1st Class Sarah Rybkowski said excitement began to build during the two months they had to prepare.

"The hardest part was telling

my parents about it," she said.

For Airman Borowiec, it was saying goodbye to people here.

Before arriving at their deployed location, Airmen spent two months training on gun truck security at Air Force and Army bases in Texas, Oklahoma and Kuwait. The Airmen trained on numerous weapons, learned security techniques and how to conduct convoy operations, and adapted to new living conditions.

The eight Airmen then traveled to Iraq to fulfill their half-year deployment.

Each Airman completed over 50 convoy missions there, said Senior Airman Richard Vang, a gun truck driver and shuttle driver during the deployment.

"The average mission lasted about eight hours if everything went well," he said. "On one mission I was on we got attacked three times. The first two times with small improved explosive devices,

and the last with a large IED, but we kept rolling with no damage."

The Airmen usually spent about two hours prior to the mission preparing the convoy by checking weapons systems, vehicles, body armor and supplies like water and food, said Airman Borowiec.

Headquarters leadership at U.S. military bases in Iraq direct convoy operations, the Airmen explained. The convoys usually move and protect payload such as fuel trucks, food and other supplies.

"This deployment really built bonds between us from day one," said Airman Rybkowski. "We lived in huge tents right next to each other, so we had to make friends quickly. We had to get along, listen and do our jobs. It really gave us character out there, having to rely on each other everyday."



photos by Senior Airman Katie Thomas

Families wait and watch as eight Airmen from the 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron return from a six-month deployment Feb. 3.

During a mission in the first month in Iraq, Airman Rybkowski had to responded to an injured gunner in her convoy.

"I didn't really think when it happened," said Airman Rybkowski, who is certified as a critical life-saver. "I performed first aid and then watched as he was evacuated out of there."

The Airmen said that the sup-

port the base personnel in administratin to the flight line was equally as important as the convoys out on the open Iraqi roads.

"It really makes a huge difference having them there," said Airman Borowiec.

Vehicle operators like Airmen Borowiec, Rybkowski and Vang can expect to deploy every one or two years for six months.

Japanese officers attend AF Security Forces Basic Course

By James Coburn
37th Training Wing Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) – The first Japanese Air Self-Defense Force officers since 1992 are attending the Air Force Security Forces



photo by James Coburn

Japan Air Self-Defense Forces Maj. Nobukatsu Kishiura practices escaping from a "suspect" using a hand-to-hand combat maneuver during security forces training at Camp Bullis, Texas, on Jan. 30.

Basic Officer Course here.

"I would like to emphasize that we really appreciate being accepted here," said Capt. Hideaki Nakamura, one of the three Japanese officers attending the nearly four-month-long course. The course is taught mostly at Camp Bullis by instructors from Lackland's 343rd Training Squadron.

"Usually this course takes one student from one country," Captain Nakamura said. "But this time, they accepted three of us at the same time, which is very rare. And, we are the very first Japanese officers to enter this course, so we are very excited about it, and we are very grateful to be here."

John Martin, international military student officer at the Defense Language Institute, said records going back to 1992 show no Japanese officers attending the course.

"We really enjoy having foreign international students," said Staff Sgt. William Truitt, a course instructor. He said when officers from the United States work side-by-side with foreign students, "it shows the new lieutenants that this is

truly a (combined) service."

Training foreign students helps show that the key to success is through force multipliers and gaining support through foreign nations, he said.

"It's different services and nations joining together for one cause, one commitment, whether it's peacekeeping, marshaling or whatever the job is, it's going to be done jointly," Sergeant Truitt said.

Countries that have sent officers to the course include Lithuania, Estonia, Great Britain, Korea and India. Sergeant Truitt said the foreign students normally work in the intelligence or antiterrorism fields, or in the case of the Japanese officers, at headquarters in the joint operations world.

Maj. Nobukatsu Kishiura, the most senior of the Japanese officers, likened the headquarters at Ichigaya air force base in Tokyo to the Pentagon in the U.S. It is an hour drive from the Yokota Air Base, Japan.

Sergeant Truitt said most of the officers attending the course (the maximum is 48) come directly from a commissioning source. It gives them their 3-level officer identifier,

including the security forces badge and beret. The course includes security forces doctrine, history and shooting weapons, with qualification on the M-4 carbine and M-9 pistol.

The course was completely revamped and lengthened by one month last year, including tailoring it to an international course so its contents are applicable to all students. The course validation was finalized with graduation of its third class Jan. 9 – so it provides college credit as well as an Air Force Specialty Code. A maximum of 48 officers can attend the course, which lasts 78 training days, 70 at Camp Bullis and seven at Lackland.

"It's been very useful," said Captain Nakamura, whose expertise is in air battle-field management. "We've been learning a lot about U.S. Air Force Security Forces. It's been great, actually – many challenges in terms of physical training and English."

Capt. Mitsuhika Shintaku, a civil engineer, said, "All the instructors are very kind. They give us hope and support."

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

ORI countdown: 30 days

Chapel community makes donation to Operation Warm Heart

By Senior Airman Katie Thomas
Editor

The base chapel recently presented a donation for more than \$7,000 to the First Sergeants Council.

The money was given to the private organization's Operation Warm Heart program.

"For every \$1 given here, \$1 will be used to benefit Yokota servicemembers and families in need," said Master Sgt. Michael Rockhold, First Sergeants Council president and the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron's first sergeant. "All the money will be given right back to the community

through meal vouchers to donations for helping with emergency leave and medical concerns."

Operation Warm Heart is an Air Force-wide program and on-going tradition that is supported by first sergeants. Servicemembers and their families can go to their unit first sergeant to request financial help from the program. The need is presented in a base first sergeants' meeting, where the need is validated, voted on, and an amount is decided, said Master Sgt. Tom Johnson, 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron first sergeant.

The base chapel collected the money during the 2005 holiday season through a

designated offering for its Catholic and Protestant services' tithes and offerings, said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Linsky, wing chaplain.

"Per Air Force regulations, we at the chapel cannot directly give financial aid to an individual, but through this program we entrust some of our offerings to the first sergeants who know the needs better than we do and can distribute this donation," explained the chaplain.

Chief Master Sgt. Cathy Barker, 374th Airlift Wing command chief, said, "No one can imagine the impact that this program truly has. It helps families in need during the holidays and throughout the year, sta-



photo by Senior Airman Katie Thomas

The Yokota First Sergeants Council accepts the base chapel donation.

bilizing them when there is no other source."

For more information about Operation Warm Heart, contact your unit first sergeant.

Official outlines voting guidelines for overseas citizens

By Army Sgt. Sara Wood
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. servicemembers and federal employees stationed overseas need to act quickly to request absentee ballots for this year's primary and general elections.

This year, U.S. citizens will elect 34 senators, the entire House of Representatives, 37 state governors, and hundreds of state and local officials. Primaries begin in March and the general election is Nov. 7.

To participate in their home states' elections, servicemembers and overseas citizens need to complete a Federal Post Card Application requesting an absentee ballot, said Scott Wiedmann, deputy director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program. The application

needs to be completed and returned as quickly as possible, to give the local election office time to mail the ballot to the citizen and then time for the ballot to be returned before the state's deadline.

"For the Federal Post Card Application, we recommend they send it in as early as possible in the year," he said. "Anytime that they move during that year, they should send another form in so the local election official has their address and the ballot will get to them in a timely manner."

All servicemembers, federal employees and their families, and U.S. citizens living overseas are allowed to vote in their home states under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, Mr. Wiedmann said. This year's elections are especially important for servicemembers, because Con-

gress controls many aspects of military life, such as housing, health care and retirement benefits.

Federal Post Card Applications are available from military voting assistance officers, who are part of every unit, and U.S. embassies and consulates, Mr. Wiedmann said. The forms can also be accessed on the Federal Voting Assistance Program's Web site at www.fvap.gov.

The Web site also offers instructions on completing the form. Servicemembers can receive extra help from their voting assistance officers, who have access to the voting assistance guidebook, Mr. Wiedmann said. This guidebook has specific instructions for each state, including deadlines for registration and how to fill out the application form.

The Federal Post Card Appli-

cation has been improved this year, Mr. Wiedmann said. It is sealed better, so personal information can't be seen by anyone handling it, and there is a space for citizens to include e-mail addresses so election officials can contact them quickly if there's a problem with their forms.

Generally, servicemembers' legal state of residence is what appears on their leave and earnings statement, Mr. Wiedmann said. Servicemembers must vote in that state unless they move and consciously change state of residence. For example, servicemembers cannot arbitrarily choose to vote in the state they are stationed in or the one they just left unless they have established residence there. A military legal office can answer questions about state of residence.

Federal Post Card Applications

can be submitted by fax in many states, Mr. Wiedmann said, and some states allow ballots to be faxed. A few states are even e-mailing ballots to citizens, who print them out and mail them back.

There are many ways for absentee voters to participate in elections, and the most important thing for these voters to do is communicate with their local election office, Mr. Wiedmann said.

Individuals who used the correct means to request a ballot but the ballot doesn't arrive on time can use a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot to vote, Mr. Wiedmann said. Federal Write-in Absentee Ballots are available at all military installations and U.S. embassies and allow citizens to write in their choice of candidates.

(Courtesy of American Forces Press Service)

NEWS AROUND THE AIR FORCE & PACAF

For these stories and more, visit Air Force Link at www.af.mil

BMT extended: ORLANDO, Fla. — Civilians wanting to be Airmen are going to have to tough it out for an additional two and a half weeks at basic military training.

The additional weeks will give more time for Airmen to be trained on war-fighting skills they would encounter in a deployed combat location, such as the use of small arms and emergency medical skills.

Air Force charity ball set for April 1: SAN ANTONIO (AFP) -- After raising more than \$630,000 the last two years, the Air Force's official charity ball returns April 1 at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C. The first official ball was in 2004.

The committee will stop taking reservations Feb. 10. For information on tickets, call Linda Bolton at (703) 968-9061 or e-mail her at clbolton@juno.com.

Nihon-go now

⇒ **What do you do for a living?**

Anata no shoku-gyou wa nan desuka.
(ah-nah-tah no shoo-koo ge-yoo wah nah-n deh-soo-kah.)

⇒ **I work at Yokota Air Base.**

Watashi wa Yokota kichi no gunjin desu.
(wah-tah-shee wah Yokota kee-chee noo gah-n-jah-in deh-soo.)

AD



photo by Senior Master Sgt. Michael Atkinson

Music in the air
The Mizuho Youth Symphonic Band and Harmony in Mizuho team up with members of the Band of the Pacific-Asia's Pacific Brass. It is an annual friendship concert held at Mizuho Town's Sky Hall between Yokota and Mizuho. The afternoon concert held Sunday featured traditional Japanese and popular American music.

CMSAF announces retirement

WASHINGTON – The 14th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Gerald R. Murray, announced plans to retire this summer after serving more than 28 years.

Chief Murray has served as the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force since July 1, 2002.

"I've grown up as an Airman," said Chief Murray who enlisted in October of 1977 from his childhood home in Boiling Springs, NC. "The Air Force has been a way of life for me for so long, I know it will be bittersweet to say farewell. I've been tremendously blessed in my personal and professional life and I owe a great deal to those Air Force leaders, mentors and peers who helped me throughout my career. I have found that the Air Force has given back to my family and me 10 times what I have given to it, and I am truly grateful."

"I'm also grateful to have represented the best enlisted force in the world to our senior leaders, to Congress, and to the American public," said Chief Murray. "It's truly been an honor to serve with such outstanding Airmen and great Americans. While my retirement will take me away from active duty status, I will always be an Airman."

His official retirement date is Oct. 1, 2006, but a formal ceremony and appointment for the 15th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force is planned for June 30, 2006.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray shares lunch with junior enlisted Airmen during a recent visit to Southwest Asia. He will be retiring from active duty Oct. 1 after serving for more than 28 years.



photo by Staff Sgt. Rhiannon Willard

Air Force uniform changes discussed

ORLANDO, Fla. (AFPN) – The top Air Force general is enthusiastic about the upcoming utility uniform and its head-to-toe changes, he said at the Air Force Association Air Warfare Symposium here Feb. 2.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley said that officials have finalized the new uniform, and one of the major topics of discussion was the women's boot.

For years, women have had to do with a smaller version of a men's boot, but "that's not right, and that's not the way I want to do business," he said.

"When you have a female Airman pulling security duty at Balad [Air Base in Iraq] or on the rugged terrain at Bagram [AB, Afghanistan], and she's standing on her feet all day, doing business to serve this country, she deserves better than a small men's boot," he said. "There are physical differences between men's feet and women's, and these new boots are going to accommodate that."

General Moseley said he's garnered insight about the uniform by actually going out into the field and speaking with Airmen.

"I told them, 'Tell me what you want to change'," he said, "and they pointed out they wanted a pocket on the arm, pocket on the legs, more pockets on the blouse, because when you're over there, wearing the body armor, you have to have those things in places you can reach."

General Moseley said a women's version of the utility uniform will also be available, "because for a long time, women have had to pick sizes that were based on the men's uniform, that were kind of close to her size, so they had to get them altered or modified or just do with what they've got. That's not going to be an issue anymore."

He said two uniform issues are still being worked – the final configuration of the regular duty hat and the design of the T-shirt. "We are also looking at how to put U.S. AIR FORCE on the shirt," he said. "We want something on the shirt so that when a young Airman at Keesler who is responding to the hurricane takes off his blouse, people know that is an Air Force member conducting that operation and getting the work done."

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

AD

History's greats share words of wisdom

By Lt. Col. Bill Summers
36th Airlift Squadron

So I hear there is an Operational Readiness Inspection soon.

As preparation consumes the time and effort of the wing here, I thought I would write a few prophetic words on the subject – only I'm not much of a visionary composer.

Not to worry, the solution was a mere interview or two away.

I took out my pad and pen and spoke to those nearby (thanks to the internet) who had led, endured, and "waxed poetic" in their day. I asked them the musings that floated across my mind while I was lying under shelter, looking through plastic, and laboring to breathe through my gas mask.

"Martha," I began, "We've been running through exercises for a while now, and sometimes at the end of a two-hour attack, it gets a little hard to maintain a good sense of humor, let alone focus. Any thoughts?"

Mrs. Washington, thinking back on her husband's tribulations, replied, "I am still determined to be cheerful and happy, in whatever situation I may be; for I have also learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions, and not upon our circumstances."

"Beautiful!" I thought. "Being in control of my own disposition; sounds like something I can fight for!"

I slipped, however, and began to worry about the additional

stress put upon the leaders in the wing, not just the commanders and chiefs, but the shift supervisors, production superintendents and shop chiefs.

What about the master sergeant who leads a team performing rapid runway repair after an airfield attack?

What about the captain who commands an aircraft on a 16-hour mission through surface-to-air threats and complicated sequences?

Does all this stress push us beyond our limit? Is our risk management where it should be?

Abe put a hand on my shoulder sensing my concern and said in a calming voice, "Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."

"So, Mr. Lincoln," I reeled, trying to get my arms around his point, "You're telling me that, for the leaders in the wing, it's not about adversity; their character is defined in how they use their increased responsibility to lead troops through adversity."

Ms. Keller softly added, "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved."

"Thank you, Helen." I felt at ease in the presence of such brilliant vision.

"So how do we motivate the masses?" I asked. "What's the best course of action? What can we say to get them to do their jobs with speed and accuracy impress-

ing the inspectors to no end?"

Abigail Adams chimed in without hesitation, a scolding tone in her voice, "We have too many high sounding words, and too few actions that correspond with them."

I had been chastised, and immediately saw the error in my question: as leaders, we have to act and not merely direct.

Mr. Sam Ewing, the ex-Sailor and prolific twentieth-century journalist, lightened the mood with his take: "Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses and some don't turn up at all."

I thought of my brothers and sisters in the 374th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. They have their sleeves rolled up. Sam threaded a new needle by adding, "It's not the hours you put in your work that counts, it's the work you put in the hours."

In other words, work smart and hard, not just long.

"Of course," I mustered, "the next time we see a week-long Phase I and II will be in front of the inspectors, what happens if they catch us in a mistake?"

Mr. Clemons, my good friend Mark, provided levity with, as always, just a touch of truth: "Always acknowledge a fault. This will throw those in authority off their guard and give you an opportunity to commit more." Chuckling, I encouraged more, "How do we achieve our ultimate goal of thoroughly impressing the higher ups?"

Mr. Arnold Toynbee, a 19th

century historian and philosopher, brought it into focus: "It is a paradoxical but profoundly true and important principle of life that the most likely way to reach a goal is to be aiming not at that goal itself but at some more ambitious goal beyond it."

"So," I thought, "we've got to believe in our ability to attain perfection; let the grades fall as they may."

"In the end, why are we enduring this tribulation? Isn't that the most basic question? Most three-year-olds ask this question on a five-minute pace: 'Why?' Beyond motivating Airman to excel at a function because it fits into a larger task, don't we all have to understand the 'big' reason behind the toil? "

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was contemplative in his answer. He knew that our March inspection was not about grades or achievement. It serves a higher purpose. The purpose goes back to our forefathers and what they began almost 230 years ago: democratic process and the suppression of tyranny.

President Roosevelt almost whispered, "In the truest sense, freedom cannot be bestowed; it must be achieved."

March 12 through 21 is our hour to prove that we can defend freedom if so called upon.

Just so we don't forget people in our endeavor to accomplish mission, Bill Wordsworth added: "That best portion of a good man's life, his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love."

Security Forces commander passes on guideon, thanks

By Lt. Col. David Kendrick
374th Security Forces Squadron commander

It has been an honor to return to the Security Forces career field and serve the "Defenders" of Yokota Air Base as their commander.

In a few days, I will pass the baton to their new commander, Maj. Nathan Schalles, and return to my Staff Judge Advocate duties.

I will return with a renewed respect for the men and women in Security Forces. Although their repeated and short-notice deployments have led to manning shortages, long hours and untold stress on their personal life, they have still maintained their professionalism and superbly secured Yokota Air Base. The complete success against local terrorism at Yokota Air Base is a direct reflection on Security Forces and our integrated base defense community.

A few years ago, I began my military career as a military policeman in the Army and transitioned to the "blue uniform" as a law enforcement noncommissioned officer,

followed by officer tours in missiles, intelligence and as a Judge Advocate.

Much has happened since I was a Security Policeman. No longer are there two Air Force Specialty Codes – law enforcement and security. The career fields merged into one in 1997, as it was prior to 1971 before the career fields were separated.

Not much has changed over the years concerning law enforcement or security duties. Operational resources like aircraft and missile systems must be protected and those who violate the law must be apprehended and dealt with accordingly.

A major difference is Security Forces must not only secure home-station installations but they must deploy to protect air bases in locations all over the world. This job must be done but with nowhere near the resources we had in the past. Therefore, wings must depend on other Airmen to augment security forces and they are doing an outstanding job filling the gap.

An organization's success is often dependant on each Airman's commitment to

following the ideals espoused by the Air Force Core Values – integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do. The Security Forces Creed requires its members to wear their badge of authority with dignity and restraint, and promote by example, high standards of conduct, appearance, courtesy, and performance. Unfortunately, units will have a few Airmen who fail to adhere to these standards. We cannot individually prevent negative behavior, but we must work together as a team, as wingmen – to limit the detractors to successfully accomplish our mission.

Next time you see a "Defender" protecting our base, please thank them for what they do day-in and day-out, 24 hours-a-day to make Airmen, their fellow servicemembers and families safe from unlawful activity and terrorism all over the world.

Finally, I would like to thank the "Defenders" for ensuring our loved ones sleep secure while we are home and while we are deployed abroad.

I salute you all!



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Publisher

DUI Prevention

Jan. 11 – Jan. 17	0
Total DUIs in January	1
Total in 2006	1

Punishment

.049 or less = car parked for 12 hours
.05-.079 = 6 months walking
.081-.149 = 1 year walking
0.15 or greater = 2 years walking

*Don't
drink and drive.
Call 225-RIDE!*

TEAM YOKOTA'S BEST OF THE BEST

Annual award winners recognized during ceremony Feb. 4 at Enlisted Club



**Airman 1st Class
Brandon Hill**

As a systems control facility technician at Camp Zama, Japan, he has a noncommissioned officer role as an assistant shift supervisor for 60 hours per month. He identified a major satellite flaw and rerouted 10 circuits to the praise of the Army-Japan communications director. Within two and a half years of time in service, Airman Hill completed his Community College of the Air Force degree with a 4.0 grade-point average.



**Tech. Sgt.
Ronald Carmichael**

He is the non-commissioned officer in charge of the Facility Control Office-Japan. Sergeant Carmichael helped install \$35 million in new Department of Defense circuits as part of a network upgrade that boosted base capacity by 418 percent. He is also the pointman for the 225-RIDE program, which saved 412 careers and lives. He completed 31 hours of credits with the University of Maryland University College.



**Senior Airman
JulieAnna Carsen**

A broadcast producer and radio DJ, Airman Carsen earned numerous awards in 2005 and reported world events from Alaska to Guam. She produced 70 radio commercials and contributed to the section's 800 percent increase in command information for five Department of Defense bases. Airman Carsen is also the president of the Yokota Junior Enlisted Council, representing 3,000 Airmen to wing leadership.



**Tech. Sgt.
Jamie Vanoss**

He is a duty officer with the 730th Air Mobility Squadron, directing operations for the Pacific's busiest port. He oversaw 69,000 passengers, 27,000 cargo tons moved on 5,700 missions while maintaining a 99 percent dependability rate. He also helped oversee the Secretary of Defense's mission to Beijing. He is the president of the squadron's private organization, and he worked as a translator at the Friendship Festival.



**Master Sgt.
Michael Hullender**

Bronze-Star awardee, Sergeant Hullender deployed for 227 days and led convoy operations under fire. The Logistics Readiness member mentored 17 Airmen and 30 Japanese Nationals in three shops to support 1,100 vehicles worth \$75 million. His efforts garnered a 93 percent mission-capable rate. He mentored 120 Airmen at a redeployment seminar, helping both deployers and families adjust. He also earned 12 college credit hours.



**Master Sgt.
Ruth Hutchinson**

She serves as the first sergeant for the 295-person 374th Operations Group, keeping enlisted issues at the forefront and providing advice to the group commander. She cultivated pride of ownership in her group's 160 dormitory residents, winning the dorm \$2,000 for quality-of-life upgrades. She aced the Silver Flag exercise, and also completed suicide intervention training. Sergeant Hutchinson also spearheaded the Air Force Ball.



Senior Master Sgt. Anthony Byrd

As the superintendent and first sergeant for the Department of Defense Special Representative Japan, he helped reverse morale trends after only a few months on the job. He reviewed and monitored career progression for all enlisted personnel for DSRJ, and helped fuse more than 100 Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and civilians into a team. He was also re-elected as commander of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars chapter.



**Master Sgt.
Sandy Lofton**

She was hand-selected to be first sergeant for Fifth Air Force from the entire organization's staff. She looks after the morale and welfare of more than 200 personnel, maintaining 100 percent accountability to the 5AF commander. She completed a master's degree in human relations, maintaining a 3.8 grade-point average. Sergeant Lofton also hosted the annual Dorm Elves holiday party and served meals to Airmen during the holidays at the dining facility.



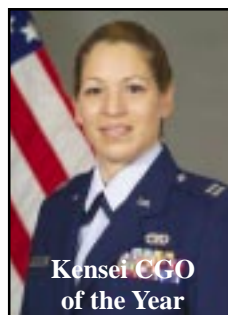
Capt. Paul Franz

As the chief of base development with the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron, Captain Franz led eight civilians and three officers in planning, programming, contract management and oversight of \$1.1 billion in construction projects at 14 locations across Japan. He led a 15-person Kendo demonstration at the annual Friendship Festival, and he also led construction on a Yokota Players' musical that included recruiting 21 volunteers to help.



Ronald Stewart

Former senior noncommissioned officer, Mr. Stewart is an accounting technician with the 374th Comptroller Squadron. He partnered with resource managers and the base contracting squadron to tackle dormant obligations, which resulted in \$946,000 being returned to the wing. He also orchestrated a paper drive for a local day care center, teaching children how to recycle. He is an active member in his church, attending Sunday school and serving as an usher.



Capt. Michelle Moreno

The officer-in-charge of air freight at the 730th Air Mobility Squadron, Captain Moreno has 149 troops under her and managed the movement of 23,000 cargo tons on 500 aircraft monthly, with a 99 percent on-time departure rate. She was also integral to humanitarian relief efforts to the Asia tsunami and Pakistan earthquake. Captain Moreno chaired the Hispanic heritage committee, recruiting 30 members and hosting four major events.



Namiko Mitsuhashi

She is a network administrator for the 730th Air Mobility Squadron. She aided the transformation of the passenger terminal to a modern Japan motif, and helped save \$1.8 million in the process. She streamlined accountability for 316 computers, with \$1.2 million in assets capitalized. Ms. Mitsuhashi donates six hours a month to a local nursing home, taught English to Japanese orphans, and volunteered for numerous base events including Special Olympics.

AD

Off base

New Year's celebration: Yokohoma's China Town is hosting its annual New Year's celebration Saturday and Sunday, including a Chinese lion dance performance.

Metropolitan Civic Art Festival: Japan's National Noh Theatre is hosting this annual festival Feb. 19 beginning at 3:30 p.m. Performances include traditional Noh and Kyo-gen plays. The theater is located on the JR Yamanote Line's Sendagaya Station. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Call 035-925-3871.

Japan Golf Fair 2006: This exhibition features contests, lessons, equipment trials, and actions. It is at the Tokyo Big Site Feb. 24 to 26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Take the JR Yamanote Line's Shinbashi Station, change to Yurikamome, and get off at Kokusai Tenji-jo Seimon Mae. Visit <http://japangolffair.com/>

Plum Tree park festival: This well-known plum tree park in Tama, called Oshino Baigo, is hosting its annual festival Feb. 25 to April 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There are more than 25,000 plum trees in 120 different varieties. The park is a 15-minute walk from the JR Ome Line's Hinata Wada Station.

On base

Movies

Today – *In The Mix*, PG-13, 7 p.m.; *Annapolis*, PG-13, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday – *In The Mix*, PG-13, 2 p.m.; *Ice Harvest*, R, 7 p.m.; *Annapolis*, PG-13, 9:30 p.m. (adults only)

Sunday – *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, PG-13, 2 p.m.; *Annapolis*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Monday – *Annapolis*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Tuesday – *Syriana*, R, 7 p.m.

Wednesday – *Annapolis*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Thursday – *Ice Harvest*, R, 7 p.m.

All movies and showtimes are subject to change without notice. Call 225-8708.

Cell phone use

Effective immediately, all vehicle operators on Pacific Air Forces installations will not use cell phones unless their vehicle is safely parked or they use a hands-free device. This policy is for both on and off base driving.

Tax center

The Yokota Tax Center is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Walk-in hours for 1040EZ filing are Mondays through Wednesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. Call 225-4926.

Tuition assistance

Air Force spouse tuition assistance applications are being accepted now for Term IV at the University of Maryland University College. Applications must be returned by Feb. 24. Call 225-7337.

Playgroup openings

The Educational and Developmental Intervention Services Program is offering a limited number of slots for ages 13 to 30 months to participate in structured, parent-lead playgroups. Call 225-9993.

"Band of Brothers"

Actors James Madio, Eion Bailey, and Peter Hills along with veterans from the "Band of Brothers" films are visiting the Samurai Cafe Feb. 12 at 11:30 a.m., and the Taiyo Recreation Center at 2 p.m. The events are open to the community.

Tax software

Turbo Tax is available to military members free of charge at www.militaryonesource.com.

Shuttle bus

Drivers are reminded to not pass any stopped school or shuttle bus that is loading or unloading passengers, or displaying a stop signal unless signaled by the bus's driver to go ahead.

Yokota Singles

Singles are invited to a free dinner and discussion about "How To Be Successful" beginning at 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the building behind the Traditional Chapel. The singles also host a free coffee bar every Friday in the same building from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Musicians needed

The Yokota Players* is seeking musicians for an orchestra in the upcoming production of the comic opera "The Mikado" in June. Instruments include violin, violoncello, contrabass, flute, piccolo, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horns, cornets, trombones, tympani, and percussion. E-mail rosser@asia.umuc.edu.

Prayer luncheon

The 374th Airlift Wing Chapel is hosting a national prayer luncheon Feb. 28 at 11:30 a.m. at the Enlisted Club. The cost is \$8 a person. Community members should contact their unit first sergeant or call 225-7009.

Asian bazaar

The Yokota High School Parent-Teacher Organization* is hosting an Asian bazaar Feb. 18 to 20 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

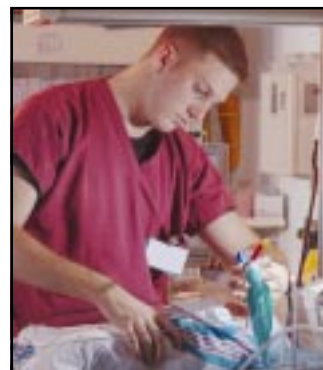
Scholarships

The Yokota Officers' Spouses' Club is sponsoring scholarships for SOFA-status Yokota High School seniors and SOFA-status spouses who will be enrolling in college this spring. Visit <http://www.yosc.org>.

Applications for the Scholarships for Military Children are available at the base commissary. The deadline for submitting an application is Feb. 22. Visit <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

Air Force JROTC

Nearly 150 positions are opening up for retired or soon retiring officers and noncommissioned officers throughout the United States. Visit <http://www.afoats.af.mil/AFJROTC/instructors.asp>.



**Airman 1st Class
Douglas McNett**

Samurai Warriors



of the Week

Airman 1st Douglas McNett, 374th Medical Operations Squadron, is this week's Samurai Warrior of the Week for exhibiting the qualities of sympathy toward all people, sincerity and respect for one's word of honor, absolute loyalty to one's superior, and a duty to defend the honor of one's name and guild.

Airman McNett is an Aerospace Medical Service apprentice who is assigned to the Obstetrical Unit. He is responsible for the care of mothers and their newborn infants and has assisted in 26 deliveries to date. He was handpicked to be the medical group historian and has devoted off-duty time to create slide shows, and take pictures during official functions, retreats and parties.

Closures

The arts and crafts center's sales store is closed Feb. 21 and 22 for renovations.

Field trip

The Arts and Crafts Center is offering an overnight field trip Feb. 18 to 19 that includes visits to a glassmaking studio in Nikko, the Mashiko pottery village, and lodging at the Asaya Hotel near Kinugawa Hot Springs. Sign up by Saturday. Call 225-9044.

Sale

The Yujo Recreation Center is hosting a shrine sale Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Valentine's Day

The Enlisted Club is offering a Valentine's Day dinner Saturday from 6 to 8 p.m.

The Officers' Club is offering a dinner special for couples Feb. 14 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The Tama Hills Outdoor Recreation Center is also hosting a dinner Feb. 12 from 4 to 7 p.m.

Chapel Schedule

Traditional (West) Chapel

Catholic: Mass, Sundays at 9:15 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Protestant: Traditional service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Liturgical service Sundays at 12:30 p.m.; Seventh Day Adventists, Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Contemporary (East) Chapel

Protestant: Gospel service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Korean Service, Sundays at 2 p.m.; Contemporary service, Sundays at 5 p.m.

Call 225-7009.

Publicity

Private organizations and base units can advertise events by e-mailing: afn.publicity@yokota.af.mil; fuji.flyer@yokota.af.mil; and yokota.bulletin@yokota.af.mil.

PO disclaimer

An asterisk (*) denotes a private organization. Private organizations are not a part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and have no governmental status.

AD

“Quotes” & Things

“I wanted to be a big-league ballplayer so I could see my picture on a bubble-gum card.”

Al Ferrara

5K: The African American/Black History Month heritage run is Tuesday at Yokota Field beginning at 6:30 a.m. The first 400 runners will receive free t-shirts.

Karate: Free Karate lessons are offered at the base Natatorium every Saturday from 3 to 5 p.m.

Stingrays: The Stingrays swim team needs volunteers to assist with its home meet at the Natatorium Feb. 18. Call 227-6696.

Fencing: The Yokota Fencing group hosts free fencing lessons at the Family Support Center Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Visit <http://www.blacktigers.groo.us>.

Volleyball: The 374th Services Division is holding varsity volleyball tryouts for men and women Feb. 19 and 26 at the Yokota Middle School from 2 to 5 p.m. It is open to all military, SOFA-status, DOD civilians, and dependents. Participants must be 18 years or older. Call 225-8881, or send an e-mail to clarence.hucks@yokota.af.mil.

Umpires: The USFJOA is currently recruiting new baseball umpires. A mandatory clinic for new and veteran umpire is Feb. 19 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the base library. Call 227-6071 or 227-3329.

Fuji Flyer: Send sports briefs, statistics, and submissions to fuji.flyer@yokota.af.mil or call 225-8833.

MDG puts up fight, however loses intramural championship to MXS



photos by Senior Airman Katie Thomas

Above, Will Anderson (number 21) attempts to block a shot from the 374th Medical Group Feb. 3 at the Samurai Fitness Center. Below, MDG grabs for the ball during the first quarter as the 374th Maintenance Squadron looks for their next play.



In a tense finish to a pulsating intramural basketball season, the 374th Maintenance Squadron defeated the 374th Medical Group 31-30 to claim this year's championship.

“We played with heart, with attitude, and no fear of losing,” said Antwan Piper, 374th Maintenance Squadron. “It was a total team effort.”

Piper was named MVP of the basketball championship game.

The next intramural basketball season begins in December. For more information on intramural sports contact the Samurai Fitness Center at 225-8881.

(Courtesy of 374th Services Division and team coaches)

Bottom, Antwan Piper (number one) faces off against a 374th Medical Group player during the base's intramural basketball championships Feb. 3. Below, Charlie Holloway (number four) scrambles for a rebound as teammate Will Anderson (number 21) looks on.



AD